

Free NY

WORKING TO ACHIEVE LIBERTY IN OUR LIFETIME



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK

VOL 3:ISSUE 1 - JAN 2005

POTUS ELECTION 2004, POLITICS AS USUAL?

**THE PRESIDENT STAYS THE SAME, LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATES FIGHT THE UPHILL BATTLE,
AND GREG STILLSON HAS A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE**

Another presidential election has come and gone, certainly one of the most contentious races run in many decades. Something in the air seemed particularly different this time, a deep rift affecting not only party hacks and regulars, but dividing the American psyche itself.

This time an undercurrent of urgency reached to the average person, people who usually don't care much one way or the other about politics were vested with the feeling that this election was utterly pivotal in directing the course of our country for decades to come.

Conspiracy theories ran rampant in pop culture, alleging everything from an Iraqi war to steal its oil, to the President himself having ordered the 9-11 attacks personally.

We were treated to Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 911; a Republican Convention featuring a Senator/speaker

who challenged a news reporter to a death duel on the air; popular internet flash animation musicals irreverently mocking the candidates and their respective entourages; images of John Kerry throwing his purple hearts at the White House and mocking his waffling position on Iraq; the CEO of the company who mfr's electronic voting machines assuring his listeners that he will deliver a win for Bush in Ohio (joined later by the Ohio Secretary of State boasting the same). This election was more a circus of semantics, showmanship, and posturing than one of substance.

In the aftermath, the controversy continued. Democratic hopes, fed by early exit polls showing a clear win for Kerry evaporated in light of final counts, Ohio being the clincher state.

Infrequent voters, minority voters, and people exposed

Cont'd on Page 21

WHERE WE'RE GOING AND HOW WE'LL GET THERE

by Gary Donoyan
LPNY Political Director

We all want a libertarian society, at least, a more libertarian society. There are plenty of libertarian organizations in this country that also want that. Ours is the one that has been designated to use the system known as the electoral process to seek to reach that goal. All of our activities and positions should be decided on and enacted with that in mind.

For us, the most significant obstacle to the attainment of a more libertarian society, is the government of the U.S.A., and the fact that it is currently controlled by the Republican Party. The other "major party," the Democratic Party, is even less likely to facilitate the transformation of our society into a

Cont'd on Page 10

SIX WEEKS AFTER ELECTION DAY

by Donald Silberger
NY Libertarian Candidate for US Senate (2004)

Thanks! Scores of people supported my campaign. A total of over ten thousand dollars was delivered into its coffers. That is significant grassroots money to come from merely eight hundred dues-paying NY State Libertarians.

The \$10K is the more remarkable considering the tepidness of my fund-raising. Ira Margolis and I mailed out only one fund-raising letter from April through November. Michael Cloud's tactics noted, I dislike dunning people. I figure that, alerted to my campaign, my compatriots can look it over and decide for themselves what to contribute. Despite my failure to fund-raise aggressively, my campaign was

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Free NY

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Notice to subscribers:

Due to a hard drive crash, the Oct 2004 issue of FreeNY was not published, please excuse any inconveniences that may have caused, and thank you.

The opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the official stance of the NYLP, and are otherwise the authors' responsibility. References made to the "NYLP" and "LPNY" are equivalent and stand for The Libertarian Party of New York.

Would you prefer to receive Free NY in electronic format?

On Dec 4, 2003, the NYLP Committee voted to make all issues of FreeNY available to the public, via the NYLP Website. So if you would prefer to receive it in that form as soon as it is finalized (typically 2 weeks prior to publication), please visit: briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet, or visit ny.lp.org/FreeNY. You may also opt out of receiving the hard copy of FreeNY at a link there or by contacting the Editor.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR LIBBY . . .

I have just been appointed to the local planning board of our small town in upstate New York.

How do I reconcile my libertarian beliefs and principles with being on the local planning board of my town? (I'm not even sure I believe there should BE a "planning board" in a truly free society, but since there is one, I'm going to sit on it.) In addition to my strong beliefs in individual liberties, I also love the beautiful rural environment of my town and I would like to preserve the beauty, peace and tranquility for future generations.

Can I reconcile my libertarian beliefs with a board that imposes rules and restrictions on other people's property? Is there any information you can send me to help me do the right thing in my new post?

Tresa Veitia
Clinton Corners, NY

Response from the Editor:

Tresa:

In response to the apparent philosophical conflicts of being a libertarian, and yet holding office in a non-libertarian society.

Reconciliation is fairly easy, although necessarily incomplete.

(A year ago I ran for Town Justice of Woodstock, and similarly had to address this question, both to myself and to others who had queried me on it.)

You hold personal beliefs that you do not want to marginalize. Further, you wish to be true to those ideals in any endeavor you may participate in. And perhaps you would like to affect the environment you live in, so as to have it be less repressive to those ideals.

The way to look at it is this:

Although your ideals are correct and true, you are living in an environment that does not respect all those ideals as you do.

When you (or any libertarian) takes on public office, s/he has two sets of loyalties. One, to his own personal beliefs and philosophy, and two, to the office s/he has agreed to minister.

Libertarian beliefs notwithstanding, one's personal (voluntary) agreement to another holds the highest loyalty; this is libertarian philosophy anyway - you can choose to limit your choices.

In the public office context, you are contractually agreeing to abide by and effectuate the writ-

ten laws of the office, even if they may conflict with one's own beliefs.

Although this may appear to preclude public office for libertarians, it does not, because [1] in practice most public office contain activities that are not all repugnant to libertarianism in inception, [2] public office necessarily grants discretionary powers to the office holder within the charter of the office, and often the choice to in-good-faith interpret that charter, [3] public office provides the most power to effect change upon the system, both in practice and by example.

What this means is, you take a post whose job description of that you may not agree with entirely, but within the written limitations of the post and the law, minister it as a libertarian, emphasizing some functions and decisions (that comply with libertarianism), and minimizing others (that offend libertarianism).

Except for the few status-quo extremists, there has always been a personal conflict in some way or another between the administration of governmental functions, and the principled individual. The reconciliation is, live your life as close to your own personal beliefs as your environment will let you.

Gary Treistman

Anguish Languish Winner

Here is the solution to the puzzle:

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed."

It is a quote by Albert Einstein.

When I read the first sentence out loud, I recognized it immediately. Determining the rest of the quote was the tricky part, but I figured it out.

Sounding out the last phrase ("his eyes are closed") was a big help; the first portion that I got when I concentrated on that.

Am I the first?

Daniel Schwartz
Bronx, NY

(Yes you are!!, \$15 was sent via email)

OUR PARTY MATTERS

LPNY CONVENTION NEWS

The 2005 LPNY Convention will be held on April 23, 2005 at the Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle in Syracuse.

Pre-convention informal meetings will occur on April 22 at the Lucy's Bar in the Holiday Inn, early registration in the Atrium, and the Libertarian Freedom Council meeting for students, profes-

sors, and board members will take place in an adjacent workshop.

Robert Schulz and Jim Ostrowski are confirmed speakers at this time.

See <http://ny.lp.org/official/convention> for more details.

LPNY Committee Meeting Briefs

The last quarterly LPNY State Committee meeting occurred on August 28, 2004, in Hempstead, Long Island, NY.

Participating were Committee members:

John Clifton, Chair
Stephen Healey, Vice Chair (by phone)
Richard Cooper, Vice Chair
Werner Hetzner, Treasurer/Capital Region
Blay Tarnoff, At large/Party Telecom Officer
Chris Garvey, At large/Suffolk County
Andy Demers, Monroe County (by phone)
Jim Harris, Nassau County
Audrey Capozzi, At large (arrived 1:30)
Bonnie Scott, Secretary/Webmaster/Web Editor (arrived 2:15, by phone)

And permitted observers:

Chris Padgett
Jeff Bennett, Rockland Co. Temp. Chair/Candidate
Ira Raab (arrived 1:15)
Estelle Edwards (arrived 1:45)
Mike Zimmari (arrived 2:00)
Diane Walsh (arrived 2:00)
Nic Leobold (arrived 2:20)

In selected highlights of the meeting, the Committee discussed/planned:

Suggestion to select Libertarian presidential electors that the slate of electors should be chosen and finalized at the NYLP Annual Convention, even if fewer people volunteer at that time than the number to which the State is entitled.

Nomination that Jeff Bennett be named winner of this year's Dottie-Lou Brokaw Award for Best Petitioner and awarded free admission to the next State Convention he attends. Don Silberger was recommended to receive honorable mention as a contestant for the Dottie-Lou Brokaw Award and also be awarded free admission to the next State Convention he attends.

Suggestion that the State Committee should embrace "Goal 50,000", in the belief that that will better enable us to focus on the crucial goal of winning 50,000 votes for our gubernatorial candidate in 2006, and distributed a 1 page handout on the subject.

A report on the benefits of Liberty Works was proffered to the Committee, including its capabilities to write and mail regular fund raising letters and call new inquiries and/or lapsed members.

A motion to approve Liberty Works to send information packets to new inquiries, to phone new inquiries and lapsed members, and to make the follow-up phone calls passed.

Richard Butler of Liberty Works was to be contacted to implement and oversee the arrangement.

Report based on Blay Tarnoff's transcription

LP 2004 Campaign Results

Michael Badnarik, our presidential candidate, received 12,751 votes in New York. His nation-wide total was put early-on at 378,198 votes; our early total for him from the CSPAN state-by-state listing is 390,427. This appears to exceed Harry Browne's year 2000 total of 382,000 votes. However, in 1996 Browne won 463,000 votes, while in 1980 Ed Clark won 921,199 votes.

Don Silberger, a mathematics professor at SUNY New Paltz, was nominated at our convention in April to run for U.S. Senate. Don's campaign centered largely on the drug war and defending the Bill of Rights. Don received 19,193 votes or .29 percent of the total votes cast according to the CSPAN web-site, exceeding Badnarik's

total.

Jeff Bennett ran for the 38th Senatorial District covering Rockland and part of Orange counties. His campaign was initially inspired by the bans on smoking in bars and restaurants in the state. He received 1,305 votes for 1.61 percent of the vote.

Nic Leobold ran for the 66th Assembly District which includes his home in the East Village in Manhattan, receiving 1,244 votes for 2.41 percent of the total.

Sam Sloan did not achieve ballot status, but charges that fact is due to Republican Party obstructionism; he currently has a suit pending certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court on the issue, see Sloan v. Graham, et al. S.Ct. Dkt No. 04-7857 Docketed: December 30, 2004.

Report by Bob Cotton

2004 Ballot Signature Collection Review

In order to get our candidates on the ballot, our State Party must enough (15000+) signatures from valid NYS voters, affirming that they wish to have our candidates on NYS ballots.

Some of the signature collectors are volunteers and some are paid. The detailed breakdown of what volunteer signatures were collected, and where within NYS can be found at

briefcase.yahoo.com/garyonthenet

The final count was 24,708 signatures and 2,888 pages.

North Suburbs 4638 (It's all Jeff Bennett, of course)

Hudson Valley 1185 (This is due to Don Silberger's efforts)

Gen Valley 1308 (Monroe Co. chapter: nice job!)

North Country 325 (Most of Bonnie Scott's sigs are from here)

Manhattan 376 (Jak Karako leads the pack with 119 sigs)

Capital 300 (Just Werner Hetzner here?)

Long Island 546 (Chris Garvey's the superstar here w/334)

SouthernTier 86 (All these are from Ithaca)

Central NY 50 (Includes Syracuse but no sigs from there specifically)

Outer Burroughs 100 (Only three folks collected any here?)

Western NY 0 (Disappointing Returns here)

State Committee Members collected 2613 sigs, or 29% of the volunteer sigs gathered.

Jeff Bennett collected about 50% of the volunteer sigs gathered this year.

Report by Bonnie Scott

2004 New York State Libertarian Ballot Petition Drive Results:

24,708 signatures and 2,888 pages.

Thanks to all who helped NYLP reach our signature petition drive goals, and got our Libertarian candidates on the voting ballots in New York. (Below are the # of signatures collected by the respective petitioner)

| <u>Volunteer</u> <u>Signature Gatherers:</u> | <u>Paid</u> <u>Signature Gatherers:</u> |
|---|--|
| Axinn, Mark 33 | Anders, Al 4285 |
| Becker, Steve 203 | Bloomsgon, Kim |
| Bennett, Jeff 4511 | Bonner, Darryl 5249 |
| Bruinsma, Steve 33 | Green, Ellis 110 |
| Burrough, Theron 38 | Kelly, Patrick 383 |
| Capozzi, Audrey 59 | Jackson, Lelith |
| Castellano, Nick 19 | Newton, Fred 2335 |
| Cooper, Rich 24 | Pizzo, Joe 110 |
| Flanzer, Bob 9 | Romain, Marc 1215 |
| Garvey, Chris 334 | Stadler, Aaron 590 |
| Grant, Horace | Swanson, John 230 |
| Healey, Steve 368 | Witmer, Jake 1168 |
| Hetzner, Werner 300 | |
| Hoesly, Dave 10 | Total paid: 15675 |
| Hofer, Robert 42 | Total all: 24708 |
| Karako, Jak 119 | |
| Kessler, Max 15 | |
| Kuchoni, Dave 29 | |
| Leobold, Nic 38 | |
| Lesczynski, Jim 30 | |
| Martin, Bruce 24 | |
| Meglino, Theresa 225 | |
| | Total volunteer: 9033 |



AN OVERVIEW FROM THE NYLP CHAIR,JOHN CLIFTON:**Six Months, Four Priorities****I: The General Picture**

The Libertarian Party of New York has opportunities and challenges ahead. As you know, it is now possible to register as a Libertarian. I urge those of you who have not already done so to register Libertarian. Next year we have a wonderful opportunity that only comes every four years. It will be our opportunity to reach our goal of becoming an officially recognized political party in New York because there will be an election for Governor. It would be a great victory for us if we get 50,000 votes in that election. This goal is our challenge. It can not be reached without a lot of help. Your help is essential year, we should aim for 30,000 votes in order to be on the best track to 50,000 votes in 2006. If we don't achieve it, we have even more work cut out for us.

We, and by that I mean all of us, must become more politically active. We, all of us, must work to make it happen. There is no better time to start than now. This is the first day of the rest of our lives. This is the day to commit to work toward victory. We, all of us, have to mobilize, organize, and contribute time, money, talent, and effort. We, all of us, have to find ways to reach people.

II: The Money and Party Building Picture

After the petition drive, LPNY's Treasury was largely tapped out. The preparations and distractions of major LP conventions and 2004 election delayed our full movement on the fund-raising side, but no more. So beginning this year, an effort to persuade our members to become monthly pledgers to LPNY will start. We are suggesting that members pledge at least \$17.76 (or preferably, a multiple of that - \$35.52, \$53.28, etc.) per month to replenish funds we will expended during the past election season. Please, please, please, use the Click & Pledge on the LPNY website, or failing that, use the paper form on the back page of Free NY to make a one time donation of \$50 or more to the state party.

As elsewhere reported in Free New York, Gary Denoyan has come onboard as the new LPNY state Political Director; Joel Shapiro has also been appointed as the new Legislative Watch Coordinator, replacing Andy Demers. Additional steps the state committee is taking to resolve improving our operations is contracting outside NY to get needed administrative functions

accomplished. LPNY has completed its review of a proposal of Robert Butler (Executive Director of Ohio

LP and founder of the political consulting group Libertyworks), to act as a kind of 'virtual Executive Director' for our state as well. Discussion and approval of this concluded by mid-fall, since which time the Libertyworks arrangement has been proceeding; review of his progress would happen by the mid-year LPNY meeting.

III: LP Enrollment Drive

A) NYC Mayoral Race: As I announced at the Manhattan LP convention, I would accept nomination for Mayor by a NYC body of LPNY members who will be meeting at the LP of Queens County convention on April 9. If another contender wants it more, NYC members are certainly free to opt for him/her, and there are choices available (Bernard Goetz, Audrey Silk, et al). I am not that anxious to run, although Goetz is. Goetz would get us the most publicity, and claims he is now more soundly Libertarian that he used to be (though I think it has more to do with the Independence Party nomination being beyond his reach).

I am not running to win, nor even primarily to push LP ideas in a high-profile way; mine would be a membership and enrollment oriented campaign for LPNY in the five boroughs, to better position the party for 2006. I will not seek matching funds, or register with the NYC Campaign Finance Board. This less than full-blast campaign approach would permit me to continue to serve as Chair one more year without too much conflict (again, if someone wants the chair job more, they can say so by convention time). It would also mesh well with the full-blown effort of Jak Karako to get elected to city council (he has raised \$80,000).

MLP voted to make Jak's election the primary focus of the Manhattan party in 2005, and I am not going to undercut their decision. Should the 5-borough body vote to nominate a "run to win" candidate in April, however, there will be a conflict of visions.

Alternatively, the members could elect to cross-endorse Steve Shaw, a semi-libertarian Republican who is challenging Bloomberg for the GOP nomination. Or, NOTA might win (as it did in '97), leaving the campaign year entirely focused on Jak. Consideration of these options should be constructively discussed in the next few months.

B) Number Crunching: I have revised (and

not forgotten) certain projections I made last fall regarding the registration drive that should be part and parcel of LPNY activity through the 2006 election. A modified breakdown of what should be happening, or should start to happen during the next six months is as follows. The "attack pattern" for building up LP enrollment totals logically should take a step-up ladder form, as in this order of approach---Libertarian-aligned, libertarian issues-aligned, libertarian on some issues-aligned; non-aligned; and already aligned with DemReps, but tired and open-minded). As the population of enrolled Libertarians in NY increases or spirals upward, so does our pool of donors. In this fashion, LPNY can afford to make successive appeals to each "level" towards mass market, starting with:

- . Current LPNY members; lapsed members, literary/non-political libertarians and anarchists; paleoconservatives/constitutionalists; civil libertarians.

- . Next come the niche audiences: drug reform, anti-RAVEs, anti-war, tax reform, gun rights, etc., and youth/campus groups.

- . Then the independents and other third party members.

- . Lastly, broader "disgruntled" mass populations (frustrated mainstream progressives and conservatives, Republican Liberty Caucus/Democratic Freedom Caucus).

Proposed registration markers for measuring our total progress:

- . 700-1,000 enrollments from LP members, I call level zero, or where we are now.

- . 2000-3000 = Level 1 accomplishment (triples or quadruples our current numbers) . 5000-6000 = Level 2 (7-8 times current total, equals LPNY base vote in NY elections)

- . 10,000 = Level 3 (five digit enrollment figure reached)

- . 15,000 = Level 4 (enrollments equal 15,000 petition signature requirement to get on the allot)

- . 30,000 = Level 5 (enrollments equal Green Party totals after they reached ballot stats)

- . 50,000 = Level 6 (enrollments equal to the Gubernatorial vote total needed to obtain full ballot status)

- . 100,000 = Level 7 (six figure total reached)

I think the first notch, and inroads towards thesecond level, can be obtained within months, and requires no action by LPNY beyond wide publication of the news. The 3,000 mark can be reached by the 2005 election or early 2006, IF it is high-profile and a strong initial campaign is jointly waged to attract the issue-aligned and niche audiences over the next 18 months. In NO

case should we hinge our efforts upon the Board of Elections helping us to promote the new form; all we really need is for the new change to remain in effect.

The 6,000 mark is doable by Election Day 2006, especially IF the LP U.S. state candidates are running a registration-oriented campaign, and the issue/niche markets are again pushed hard to "make that change" in the months between the convention and the election. It wouldn't hurt if the LP candidates were grassroots oriented, and staged many appearances in New York. I think a celebrity candidate for Governor is the shortest and surest route to success in both spurring enrollments and in getting 50,000 votes, if a two-step wooing process is started now (say, to first invite the high profile person to county or state conventions in 2005, then ask them about running in '06).

IV: Outreach

Werner Hetzner is developing an outreach strategy to persuade related groups into considering support or conversion to the LP, including plans to:

Write or Email to the people who completed the Can The Ban petition. Write to the Indian tribes. Write to business groups. Write to motorcycle groups. Write to gun groups. Write to home schooling groups. Write to drug groups.

These groups should be approached, and I offer to assist Werner in the effort (and I hope Werner further outlines his whole proposal). It would be especially crucial in light of the fund-raising, petitioning and registration drives explained above. But it may be just as helpful for members (who are active with these groups/activities) to provide referrals to us to these groups instead of just a cold mailing, so that the approaches would amount to warm contacts. Werner is also working on a financial formula by which local affiliates could be rewarded immediately for new members they outreached to get--details still being thrashed out.

So there it is---projections, goals, markers, timetables, concrete numbers. Or it's at least enough of a blueprint to pick apart and revise, if somebody wants to substitute more "realistic" projections. let's see how far we can move on this track by this summer. Bluntly put, LPNY needs to grow way beyond putting out a convention, a newsletter, and a petition drive each year. If we don't get started on it now, in an off-year building cycle, then when? Please give, enroll as Libertarian, gather signatures, and help us get this party started!

LIBERTARIAN RELATED ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS,**PAST AND PRESENT:**

January 19, 6:00-8:00pm, "Criminal Justice Reform in the 21st Century: Rockefeller Drug Law Reform and the Community," forum in the "Urban Dialogues" series, featuring Judge Leslie Crocker Snyder. At Metropolitan College of New York, 75 Varick Street (at Canal Street), Student Lounge, 12th floor, contact (212) 343-7025 or urbaninstitute@metropolitan.edu for info.

February 10, 6:00pm, New York, NY, book talk Anthony Papa, author of "15 To Life: How I Painted My Way To Freedom," guests including Andrew Cuomo and others. At Hue-Man Bookstore and Cafe, 2319 Frederick Douglass Blvd., between 124th and 125th Sts. Call (212) 665 7400 or visit www.huemanbookstore.com for info.

March 12-17, New York, NY, Law Enforcement Against Prohibition speaker Judge James P. Gray addresses civic groups and audiences at Columbia University and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. For further information, visit <http://www.leap.cc> or contact Mike Smithson at speakers@leap.cc or (315) 243-5844

Libertarian Talk Show in NYC

"The Libertarian Alternative" TV Show on Monday Evenings in NYC

Program:

The Libertarian Alternative

Channel: Time Warner Cable Manhattan TV Ch. 34 and RCN Cable Ch. 107

Be sure to catch the Libertarian Alternative every Monday night at 10:30pm.

Please tell all your friends and family to watch this important New York City pro-freedom program.

Note: The Libertarian Alternative TV show is also on in Brooklyn every Monday at 1pm on Time Warner Cable Channel 35, Cablevision Channel 68 and streamed live on the internet at: www.brooklynx.org/bcat/default.asp. Make sure to tell your Brooklyn friends.

For information on broadcasting the Libertarian Alternative for free on your local public access cable TV stations please go to: www.libertarianalternative.org or contact Mark Selzer at 323-469-5372 or 323-633-6275 or email: liberty64@jps.net.

NY LIBERTARIANS SAY ROCKEFELLER DRUG "REFORM" IS PATHETIC

Bellport, NY 12/17/04: Members of the Libertarian Party of New York expressed disappointment with the drug law reform bill signed by Governor Pataki this

week. Pataki, who has been opposed by a Libertarian candidate in each of his three races for governor, made Rockefeller reform an issue only in his last contest, but reportedly opposed most reforms in closed-door negotiations.

"This resembles throwing a drowning man a rubber duck," says Suffolk county attorney Chris Garvey. "It represents just a chink in the armor, towards reversing a very bad law. This bill does not go nearly far enough. Long, mandatory sentences have failed completely. Real reform is the only way to reduce crime on the streets and to protect our children."

Garvey strongly prefers legislative solutions that restore judicial discretion for judges when sentencing convicted drug offenders, reforms long pursued by State Assembly member Jeffrion Aubry, who was honored as one of New York's Champions of Liberty at the Libertarians state convention last April. New York Libertarians also support medical marijuana legislation, and the party has recently appointed Hudson Valley Libertarian Jeffrey Shapiro as LPNY Legislative Director to explore the possibilities of drastic reform, which has succeeded in many European countries.

"Ultimately, laws should help people, not finance gangs that thrive in the black market," says Queens Libertarian John Clifton, who has worked as a drug counselor. "The current laws are destroying families and are costing billions without making a dent in demand. Criminalizing the risks people may take in using substances, creating a mountain of laws to control personal choices, and disempowering judges from judging, is exactly the opposite of what a truly free society should be doing."

"As with alcohol prohibition, laws will not change human nature, but they can definitely create crime where there was none, stop addicts from seeking treatment, and distract cops from fighting real crime. Lets stop overdosing on bad government, beginning with a real overhaul of the Rockefeller drug laws."

MLP Holds Chapter Convention

The Manhattan Libertarian Party held its annual convention on January 8th, 2005, at the 1050 Restaurant in Manhattan, and was one of the most exciting freedom events of the year.

Guest speakers, included:

* Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance

* Amy Heath, NY Director of the NRA's Women on Target program

* Walter Olsen, senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and editor of Overlawyered.com

* Plus a special performance by the Missile Dick Chicks!

A 3-course sit down dinner and a cash bar were presented to meet the convention attendees.

See www.manhattanlp.org/events

NYLP Candidates Rev up for NYC Mayoral Race

NYLP Chair John Clifton announced at the Manhattan LP convention that he would accept the nomination for Mayor by a NYC body of LPNY members. A televised debate between announced LPNY candidates for mayor (John Clifton, Bernard Goetz, Audrey Silk) has been tentatively slated for February 8 on Hardfire, Gary Popkin's public access show.

Contact Gary Popkin for show details at garypopkin@aol.com

Badnarik Pursues Voting Access Breach in Ohio

In Nov 2003, the Ohio Secretary of State disqualified 60,000 ballot access signatures collected by the Ohio LP, at a cost of \$50,000 and two years of work. (The disqualification was based on a non-substantive technicality, and widely understood as Republican Party obstructionism of LP ballot access. See www.ballot-access.org/2004/0101.html#5)

www.ballot-access.org/2004/0101.html#5)

Now, under controversy, and Republican criticism, Badnarik is invoking Ohio State rules mandating a recount based on alleged ballot access violations perpetrated by state officials. Said Badnarik campaign co-director Barbara Goushaw-Collins: "This is a state where they arbitrarily pitched 10's of 1000's of our petitions . . . we're the only ones trying to keep the system honest."

(Editor's note: What goes around comes around - perhaps this action will make future state officials think twice before obstructing Libertarian candidates' access to the ballot.)

Libertarian Party of Monroe County's Annual Convention

On February 26 the 2005 LPMC Convention will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Rochester NY, at 175 Jefferson Road, Tel: (585) 475-1910.

The keynote speaker will be Peter Christ of Reconsider, a former Police Captain, and long time critic of the drug war.

Visit www.rochesterlp.org, or call (585) 529-9354 for more details.

ELLIOTT WERNER EULOGIZED

Chris Garvey, recited this piece as a eulogy at Elliott' Werner's funeral on December 9th, 2004. Werner was a former editor of Free New York.

I got an email yesterday. The heading said:

FW: UPDATE: ELLIOTT WERNER'S FUNERAL THURSDAY 11:15 A.M.

But on my screen the heading was truncated, so it read: FW: UPDATE: ELLIOTT WERNER'S FUN... elipses. And I thought of Elliott's usual admonition when ending a phone call: "Have fun! We'll talk soon."

It is said, that Houdini was never able to communicate from beyond the grave. But Houdini wasn't a word-gaming Mensa computer expert. And Houdini didn't have email.

Was this an email message from Elliott to me? "ELLIOTT WERNER'S FUN." Or to all of us? Or was it just coincidence? Unless you had my combination of: message forwards and uniquely adjusted column widths in your Mozilla email browser, you might not have seen the word "FUN" in "Elliott Werner's FUNeral". And unless you had: my peculiar sense of skeptical mysticism, iconoclasm, and an insensitivity to people's feelings, you might have had second thoughts: about trying to emphasize here, at this solemn time and place, contained in the word "Funeral", the word "fun". But if Elliott wanted me, to pass on a final bit of word play, why should I refuse?

Elliott was always generous about passing on information and ideas, that he thought, might help his friends make money. And so, if the management here at Parkside Memorial Chapel would like to adopt a commercial slogan, such as: We keep the FUN in Funeral Well, I am, among other things, a trademark attorney, and I can help you with that.

Elliott was usually the first guy I would call with a computer problem. I think he never hesitated to call me with: a legal, or an

intellectual property, issue. We spent many hours on the phone discussing the problems of the world. And he often had fun, particularly in recognizing some absurd twist in a given situation.

Like so many people in Mensa, Elliott knew he was more competent than various governments, to make his own decisions. And so he was a Libertarian. He believed that people should be free to do whatever they wished, except to initiate force or fraud against other people or their property. He was an active Libertarian, who would do whatever he could for the Libertarian cause. I don't know why he did not regard himself as a great public speaker, yet whenever he: hosted an event, or introduced someone, or spoke publicly about an issue, he was eloquent. In the week before his stroke Elliott told me that he had had, in his life, many difficult personal issues. And that he now felt he had resolved them.

Perhaps that is why we are all here in this world: to resolve our issues. And perhaps, having resolved his issues, Elliott was now free to move on. I don't know. For me, one of Elliott's good features was that he seemed to like my poetry.

So I supposed I should write a poem about him. And It should be fun. And it should be, for all your sakes, it should be mercifully short. So here is a limerick for Elliott:

If you would be an effective learner,
Emulate our friend, Elliott Werner.
Don't waste time in a college,
Just reach out and get knowledge,
And keep learning, up on your front burner.

Perhaps Elliott deserves better. I'll close with some of the last words Elliott said to me, over the phone, "Have fun!"

more libertarian one.

Thus our only realistic strategy of reaching our goal as an institution, is either to change the nature of the Republican Party, or to become and become recognized as its principal opposition party, the other "major party." I don't believe we can change the nature of the Republican Party. Although I know it is abhorrent to many Libertarians, I believe it is our responsibility as stewards of the LP to seek to grow it, to attract many voters who we would not even consider to be real libertarians.

Yes, it is important to reach "major party status" in New York by receiving 50,000 votes for our gubernatorial candidate. But the best way to do that is not just to seek to obtain 50,000 votes for our gubernatorial candidate. It is to become a party that deserves to have its gubernatorial candidate receive 50,000 votes. Either that, or have a boat load of money, and keep buying your major party status.

We have a big problem as long as Golisano keeps running as the Independence candidate for governor. They're taking our slot, and the two

of them together are practically unbeatable. I'm guessing he'll attempt it again in 2006. But whether he does or not, of course we should make our best effort anyway. (I'm aware that five different candidates each received more than 50,000 votes in 1998, but I regard that as a fluke. Systemically, there really is room for only one significant "third party," as the 2002 election indicated.)

Without Golisano, the Independence Party will either have to become a Republican parasite, or take a big risk that its lesser known, poorer candidate will not reach 50,000. I'm guessing the Republicans are satisfied with their current parasite, the Conservative Party, and would not be interested in splitting their "sponsored alternative party" vote.

The Green Party is also a significant competitor for the coveted third-party slot. Some cooperation is good, but very much of what the Greens stand for is anathema to libertarianism. The Green Party of New York has the advantage of having been a "major party" between 1998 and 2002, and keeping access to the voter registration list it developed over that time.

LPNY POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S BALLOT ACCESS AND COUNTY CHAPTER FORMATION INITIATIVES

By Gary Donoyan

The first project I propose is called:
Project 62 Monthly Meetings.

Simply, to develop a thriving county chapter in each of New York's 62 counties. Right now we have seven chapters, with various levels of activity. Plenty of room for improvement. No deadline, but efforts to reach the goal can be made every day. Even partial success would be great.

The second project is called:

Project 63 in 2005. It appears that each county will have at least one county-wide position on the ballot in November 2005. The idea is to place a libertarian person, on the ballot in each county, plus for New York City Mayor. By setting that as a goal, we would encourage activity among LP members in each county. The priority of process in each county would be: (1) candidates (2) money (3) petitions (4) votes.

The third project is called:

Project State Plus 29 in 2006.

Of course, we should run a candidate for each statewide office, including U.S. Senator. I think our next focus should be on the races for U.S. House of Representatives. That will

best lead to the LP being taken more seriously.

The U.S. Congress is where the most damage, and good, can be done, and people know that. Each of the 29 Congressional districts in New York covers such a large area, that it will be easier to find a worthwhile candidate for each.

Last but not least, all 13 districts north of New York City, and three districts on Long Island, are cross-county districts, which means the petitions for those candidates can be combined with the statewide petitions for filing purposes. In other words, the obtaining of the required 3,500 signatures for each Congressional race in those districts, will count towards the 15,000 signatures required for the Governor's race. effectively multiplying the signatures gathered for our candidates.

Of course, the LP should also run candidates in the other 13 districts in New York City and Long Island, since getting them on the ballot will be no harder than elsewhere.

Discussions about these and other related issues are continuing at groups.yahoo.com/group/lpny

All LP members are encouraged to join in

A Call For NY Libertarian Candidates

As aforementioned, the following races have been targeted for Project 63 in 2005 for LP candidates.

Any LP member who may be interested in running (or standing) for a position open for your county (or if you would like to suggest someone else), is urged to telephone, e-mail or meet with Gary Donoyan, LPNY Political Director and Nassau LP Acting Chair and Chapter Representative, or Blay Tarnoff, LPNY State Committee member and Telecommunications Officer, as soon as possible.

The LPNY will offer assistance and advice, but the ultimate responsibility for getting on the ballot and getting votes will be up to the candidates, and their county organizations. Winning the election would be great; not being on the ballot at all would be terrible. Results in between those two extremes are acceptable, and will help to build our county organizations.

Since the LPNY is not yet a "major party" under state law, we are required to petition for signatures to get onto each ballot, just as the Green Party does. The number of signatures required for all county-wide races, other than New York City races, is at most 1,500 (it may be less in counties with smaller populations). Mayoral and district races require fewer signatures. In New York City, Borough President requires 4,000, and New York City Mayor requires 7,500. The first day to collect signatures will be July 12, and the last day to turn in petitions will be August 23.

A local LP candidate for a particular office must be endorsed by the applicable political entity, as pursuant to NYS BoE law, and NYLP by-laws. The final decision on who will be the LP candidate for each race, is decided by the sub-body of the NYLP, listed under "Endorsement by".

| County | Office | Endorsement by |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Albany | Clerk | Capital Region LP |
| Allegany | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Broome | Clerk | State Committee |
| Cattaraugus | Sheriff | State Committee |
| Cayuga | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Chautauqua | County Executive | State Committee |
| Chemung | Mayor of Elmira | State Committee |
| Chenango | Clerk | State Committee |
| Clinton | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Columbia | Sheriff | Capital Region LP |
| Cortland | Mayor of Cortland | State Committee |
| Delaware | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Dutchess | Comptroller | Hudson Valley LP |
| Erie | Comptroller | State Committee |
| Essex | Sheriff | State Committee |
| Franklin | Clerk | State Committee |
| Fulton | Clerk | Capital Region LP |

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Genesee | Clerk | Monroe County LP |
| Greene* | Trustee of Catskill* | Capital Region LP |
| Hamilton | Sheriff | State Committee |
| Herkimer | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Jefferson | Clerk | State Committee |
| Lewis | County Legislator | State Committee |
| Livingston | Sheriff | Monroe County LP |
| Madison | Clerk | State Committee |
| Monroe | Clerk | Monroe County LP |
| Montgomery | Citizens | |
| | Review Bd of Amsterdam | Capital Region LP |
| Nassau | County Executive | Nassau County LP |
| Niagara | Sheriff | State Committee |
| Oneida | Clerk | State Committee |
| Onondaga | Mayor of Syracuse | State Committee |
| Ontario | District Attorney | Monroe County LP |
| Orange | County Executive | Hudson Valley LP |
| Orleans | Clerk | Monroe County LP |
| Oswego | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Otsego | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Putnam | Sheriff | State Committee |
| Rensselaer | County Executive | Capital Region LP |
| Rockland | County Executive | State Committee |
| St. Lawrence | District Attorney | State Committee |
| Saratoga | Sheriff | Capital Region LP |
| Schenectady | District Attorney | Capital Region LP |
| Schoharie | Sheriff | Capital Region LP |
| Schuyler | Clerk | State Committee |
| Seneca | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Steuben | Coroner | State Committee |
| Suffolk | Sheriff | Suffolk County LP |
| Sullivan | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Tioga | Treasurer | State Committee |
| Tompkins | District Attorney | State Committee |
| Ulster | Treasurer | Hudson Valley LP |
| Warren | District Attorney | State Committee |
| Washington | District Attorney | Capital Region LP |
| Wayne | Clerk | Monroe County LP |
| Westchester | County Executive | State Committee |
| Wyoming | Coroner | State Committee |
| Yates | Treasurer | State Committee |
| New York City | Mayor | New York City Convention |

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Bronx | Borough President | Manhattan LP |
| Kings (Brooklyn) | Borough President | State Committee |
| New York (Manhattan) | Borough President | Manhattan LP |
| Queens | Borough President | Queens LP |
| Richmond (Staten Island) | Borough President | Manhattan LP |

(*Election 29 March; petitioning 11 Jan - 22 Feb)

Or, interested potential candidates, and others with ideas and suggestions, may post a message at groups.yahoo.com/group/lpny_candidates.

For information on running for these offices, call or email us today!

Gary Donoyan
(516) 627-6164
gdonoyan1@optonline.net

Blay Tarnoff
(516) SOS-GOVT
LPNY@eblay.com

gifted with cash contributions throughout the entire six months between nomination night and election day. Many of those offerings were either large or repeated or both. Three fund-raising dinners were arranged for me by volunteers, with no input required from the LPNY Committee. That is considerable decentralized energy from an LPNY cadre which never numbers more than two dozen activists at any one time.

LPNYers set up radio and television interviews. They housed and transported me and attempted to hook me up with media contacts. They attempted to set up public appearances. Some gave only moral support. But moral support too is useful for a tired, and frequently frustrated, candidate.

I hesitate to mention the names of my cash donors; those whom I have not yet written personally to express my gratitude will be hearing from me soon. Space (and memory) do not permit me to name everybody whose hospitality or work assisted my efforts. But a few seem to stand out.

They are: It was at Ira Margolis' urging that I sought your nomination for the USSenate. Ira then became my on-the-job Treasurer, a person upon whom I could rely. Jen Rog did a few things very well. She provided a fine photo of me for my web page, she created a fine press kit, and she squeezed my story onto the readable quarter-page flyer that served as a principal campaign tool. Werner Hetzner set up and maintained my web page, to which Jen's flyer alluded, and which was another main campaign tool. He was assisted in this from August on by my daughter, Sylvia. But web-page work was far from all that these people did for my campaign. Rich Cooper constantly backed my efforts with press releases, and counselled me for six months with phone calls. He sent me informative mailings. Bruce Martin hosted me repeatedly on his radio show out of SUNY Stony Brook, and kept me in contact with Zabby, Audrey Capozzi, Joe Silvestri, and others.

Jeff Russell not only processed the petitions which put me on the NYState ballot, but also he set up events for me and accompanied me when I campaigned in the Capitol region. The mighty Jeff Bennett collected more than four thousand petition signatures. Steve Healey organized an effective petitioning effort in the Rochester area. He he set up events, sent me mailings, and advised me. Kevin Delaney conducted me on an inten-

sive day's meet-the-media in Syracuse. Aaron Stadler arranged a sequence of appearances for me at SUNY Fredonia. His personal setback at a crucial time sabotaged this, but his enterprise was impressive. Christa Siering was my frequent hostess and contact person in Ithaca. Andrew Gardiner accompanied and shepherded me in Elmira at inconvenience and sacrifice to himself. I single these people out for the strength of their efforts. But I do not intend by omitting mention of other friends of my campaign to disparage their aid.

How did I spend the money that came to my campaign? The breakdown goes roughly like this: \$1500 for campaign supplies and materials, \$500 for meals, \$100 for postage, \$1500 for travel, \$6200 for advertising (\$1200 for TV ads, and the rest for newspaper ads), \$600 for fundraising and miscellaneous expenses.

The Results?

By LPNY statistical standards, my campaign was a success: I believe that 17,643 votes is above the average for LPNY candidates for the US Senate.

Until the final two weeks I had hoped for a vote total in the hundreds of thousands. It is time for us to remove our blinders: I got only about three out of every thousand votes cast. If that represents the percentage of the population sharing our values then our values stand little chance. After all, the LP has proselytized for thirty two years.

Is it possible that libertarianism doesn't sell? As a candidate, did I come off as a crazy? Is the designation "Libertarian" contaminated as by association with Lyndon LaRouche, corporate exploitation, environmental despoilation, or other hobgoblins? I don't believe so. I believe I came off as benignly odd in a cute way not entirely devoid of dignity, and that the designation "Libertarian" remains neither here nor there in the public view.

Here's a typical reaction: "A Libertarian's the same as a liberal, isn't he? Or is it conservative? I actually like Schumer. Emmy, would you watch Mikey for me, please, thanks. Excuse me, what were you saying?..."

I did six months of intensive personal "market research" on the by-ways of New York State.

In a cell-phone-dead hollow on Route 17 many miles east of Binghamton, nobody at the diner

where I caught lunch wanted to peek at my flyer. But, in college towns, in city beer parlors, among rock concert attendees of course, but also among Second Amendment enthusiasts, my ideas were praised. At last I found myself able to sell gun clubs on the obvious fact that the drug war has grown the war on gun rights. About ten per cent, of hundreds to whom I handed a flyer, but also with whom I discussed however briefly its contents, volunteered that they would vote for me. I extrapolate to the half million votes I might have gotten if I could have reached every voter in this way. Although I exchanged relevant sentences with only hundreds, I handed Jen's flyer to thousands.

A few media people eventually caught wind of the phenomenon. Alan Chartock invited me as an interviewee on his NPR Capitol Connection show, and gave me a vivid demonstration of how a skillful interviewer brings out the best in his guest. That Chartock interview played repeatedly for a solid week, reaching a sizeable portion of the state. The Yonkers Tribune printed the first nice story on my campaign. An article cum photo appeared in the Poughkeepsie Journal. A similar article appeared on the front page of the Sunday Kingston Freeman. Together with other "fringe" candidates, I was mentioned in Rochester's daily and in the NYTimes. Obituary-style notices of my campaign appeared in half a dozen other newspapers.

Only the Middletown Times Herald Record actually savaged my campaign. I have feuded for years with the THR. I debated convincingly

with Terrence Mikos of Dutchess Cablevision. The Mikos interview played again and again for weeks, reaching five mid-Hudson counties. Many neighbors complimented me on "becoming famous," or waxed enthusiastic about newspaper stores on me, but especially about my radio and televised interviews.

No previous LPNY senatorial candidate of whom I am aware got anything close to the boost my campaign received from my neighbors and friends outside the LPNY. So, what was the bottom line? Here is my estimate of what I accomplished:

Fewer than two per cent of the voters of NY State experienced a



NYS Senate Candidate Jeff Bennet, and Kevin Anderson, Adopting a Highway at state road Rt. 59, a two mile section that straddles Monsey and Airmont. There are two signs, one at each end of the highway sections.

moment's thought about the Silberger campaign for the US Senate. Among those few I did very well. If only I could have reached ninety per cent, instead of two per cent, my effort would have jarred the system.

The media would have predicted a Libertarian ground swell in NY State. In order to have elicited such a ground swell, I would not have had to sell our ideas to resistant heads. I would have had only to present the ideas lucidly, and to argue briefly for the utility of supporting them with a vote.

(This is the end of Part 1 of Donald Silberger's article "Six Weeks after the Election".

Please look forward to the next issue of FreeNY for the final installment and conclusion, Part 2, of his article.)

WHY DOES GOVERNMENT KEEP GROWING?

by Craig J. Cantoni

Before answering the above question, let's start with some numbers on the cost of government.

The cost of the federal government is \$21,500 per household, and in my hometown of Scottsdale, Arizona, the cost of state and local government is \$3,681 and \$2,675 per household, respectively. Thus, the total cost of government at all levels is \$27,856 per household, or incredibly, 62 percent of the average household income in the state. When the cost of regulations are added, the cost of government increases to approximately \$35,000 per household, or three-fourths of the average household income.

One would think that there would be a public outcry for spending cuts, yet the opposite is true.

Consider a recent editorial in the local newspaper. The editorial advocated spending \$309 million to bury electric wires for aesthetic reasons in an older part of Scottsdale, which has a population of 220,000. That is more than the city's budget and comes to \$1,400 per person or nearly \$4,000 per household. For aesthetic reasons!

Over the last decade, the same newspaper has advocated over \$3.5 billion of discretionary spending for publicly financed sports stadiums, light rail and subsidized research centers and art museums. The \$3.5 billion is equivalent to the annual income of 87,500 households.

Over the last two months, the editorial board of the same newspaper has published 18 editorials favoring more government spending, more government programs, more government industrial planning or more government interference with the free market. It has published zero (naught, none, zilch, goose egg) advocating the opposite. At the same time, the newspaper laments that working-class people are having trouble making ends meet. Connect the dots, anyone?

Such constant drum-beating from the establishment media for more spending is one of the

reasons that government keeps growing. Listed below are other reasons.

- Taxpayers are unaware of what government costs them, because many taxes are hidden in the cost of goods and services. For example, 19 percent of a typical phone bill is taxes. Nineteen percent!

- Similarly, since many taxes are submitted to the government on behalf of taxpayers by a third party, the taxes are out of sight and out of mind. For example, property taxes are submitted to the government by mortgage companies on behalf of homeowners, FICA and income taxes are with-

held from paychecks by employers and submitted on behalf of employees, and sales taxes are submitted by merchants on behalf of customers. (One of the reasons sole proprietors tend to be fiscal conservatives is that they have to write

checks to the government each quarter for their FICA taxes and estimated income taxes. They know exactly what they pay.)

- Costs are shifted to other people. For example, riders of mass transit are subsidized by taxes on non-riders, patrons of publicly funded sports stadiums and art museums are subsidized by taxes on non-patrons, Social Security and Medicare recipients send their entitlement bills to future generations, and out-of-town visitors are charged for local government through special taxes on hotel rooms and rental cars, taxes that can amount to 25 percent of the bill. Of course, this robbing Peter to pay Paul is a zero-sum game. Over time, no one gains by everyone sticking it to his neighbor.

- Organized special interests have more political influence than the unorganized general public, resulting in the benefits of a government subsidy being concentrated among the few and the costs being spread among the many. An example of this is subsidized art museums, which are patronized by a small number of influential art aficionados but

Our National Debt is Outstanding!

The US Public Debt as of 25 Apr. 2004 at 05:19:56 PM GMT is: \$7,171,523,471,712.96.

The estimated population of the United States is 293,888,466 so each citizen's share of this debt is \$24,402.19. The National Debt has continued to increase an average of \$1.87 billion per day since September 30, 2003!

are financed by the entire population.

- It is human nature to operate in one's own interest. Politicians are no exception. If they can stay in office by doling out goodies, they will dole out goodies

- Starting with the New Deal, the General Welfare clause of the U.S. Constitution has been misinterpreted by courts and legislators to mean unlimited government. Thus, there is no longer a constitutional brake on how much the government can take from citizens.

- Neither the press, government bureaucrats nor politicians tell taxpayers what they pay in total for many government services. For example, taxpayers do not know what they pay over their adult lives in public school taxes. Thus, they are susceptible to ridiculous claims that public education is underfunded, although in my home state the average household will pay a total of \$190,000 in public education taxes. In higher-tax states, the total is more than \$250,000.

- Whenever spending cuts are being considered, the press writes stories from the perspective of the recipients of government money and not from the perspective of taxpayers. For example, in a story on proposed cuts in the state budget, my hometown newspaper did not quote one taxpayer who was pleased to see that spending might be reduced.. But it did quote 12 people who were

either public university professors, state employees or welfare recipients. As a result, the public was left with the impression that there was overwhelming opposition to the spending cuts and that the sky would fall if they were enacted.

- Advocates of spending programs du jour rarely look at the big picture to see the cumulative effect of enacting one new spending initiative after another. Nor do they make cost-benefit tradeoffs, put spending proposals in priority order, or recommend that spending be cut in one area in order to fund something new and more essential.

- Last and most important, there is no glory in fighting for tax and spending cuts, but there is plenty of glory in advocating new spending. Advocates of increased spending are honored in the media as visionaries and have statues of them put in the public square. Advocates of decreased spending, as I know from personal experience, are vilified as mean-spirited, selfish, right-wing extremists.

So take it from this mean-spirited, selfish, right-wing extremist: The growth of government cannot be stopped.

(Mr. Cantoni is an author, columnist and founder of *Honest Americans Against Legal Theft* (www.haalt.org). He can be reached at haalt1@aol.com)

HOSTAGE TAKING - A NEW GROWTH INDUSTRY!

By Gary Treistman

Taking hostages nowadays is easy and highly effective. The targets are non-military, invariably unarmed, and easily accessible.

And, once you got em, oh what a wonderful neverending fountain of propaganda that can be milked from each golden cow, a beeline ticket to the world press, \$million\$ in free advertising, a way to make your enemies sit up and take notice, a way to gain fearful respect you would never get otherwise.

And what great theatre!! Images you know will be burned into the retinas of zillions of viewers, that's right - Your very own hostage, pleading for their lives, tears in their eyes, imploring your enemies to succumb to your cause, now ever easier to broadcast via the

anonymous distribution of the Internet. And then, just for a punchline, hey! What say a live beheading! They'll NEVER forget that. Sweet!!

And that's just the problem with it. It's just too damn easy, and there are very few deterrents in place out there to dissuade any schmuck with a gun, a basement, and a video camera from snapping innocent people off the street, and making snuff films for the extremist's cause du jour.

The risk/return ratio for this kind of terrorism is vanishingly small - no need for explosives or suicide martyrs, most of it is done in the comfort of home, well protected from law enforcement. Reaping hostages is as easy as picking

Brussel sprouts.

So what's wrong with this picture?

What exactly are the authorities doing to curb this trend? Well, it would appear to be very little. In fact nothing of substance has been done to curb this particular form of terrorism. Yes, it's possible there are some your-eyes-only contingency plans out there somewhere, but of what deterrent effect is that alone? If we're not hearing/observing it, then the terrorists aren't hearing of it either, and basically that means there is no deterrent effect. As Dr. Strangelove observed, "What good is a Doomsday Device, if you keep it a secret!"¹

A solution, or at least a viable approach, to this scourge is imminently available to authorities, if they would only have the creativity and the will to form a cohesive taskforce to implement it.

This solution would at minimum provide the strong deterrent effect that is so sorely lacking on these fronts, and give notice on future would be abductors, that it won't necessarily be just a baby-sitting job anymore, and make them think twice about grabbing people to use as puppets and pawns. Further, as a bonus it would also have the potential of routing out entrenched rat's nests of terror cells.

The plan is thus:

1. Collect a number of law enforcement volunteers for a very dangerous mission.
2. Train them to act like ordinary private citizen/individuals.
3. Surgically embed in their person electronic transponders, tracking devices and/or GPS device locators with spread spectrum broadcast capability (high intensity signal - vanishingly short duration), possibly with audio monitoring.
4. Proffer them up to pose as everyday persons in commonly known danger zones, with the characteristics most tasty to terrorist abductors, e.g. Western culture, Caucasian race, well manicured and physically soft. An

advance of a bit of publicity might be put out in the public domain extolling the person as a Christian missionary or charitable aide worker, with little money and a non-violent philosophy just begging to be kidnapped e.g., "I believe we are all just people working for the betterment of Man, I am not afraid of any terrorist abductions because I know they know I am just here to help their people, and they respect my God as their God." Things like that.

5. Put them out on the street, "doing their good deeds".

6. Wait for the jackals to descend.

Inevitably, some shark will take the bait. The abducted agent will then play his part as the cowering hostage, etc., while his backup team takes careful note of his final destination. Commando raids soon follow at a most opportune time, and reap a crop of smug terrorists.²

Such raids would be highly televised, and demonstrate to other proto abductors that it ain't gonna be all that easy to do.

If such a project is carried out, a few wannabe-martyrs will actually live up to their goals, and this hostage taking business would be greatly deglamorized. It would no longer be the calk-walk it is today.³

Insurgents in Iraq have kidnapped more than 150 foreigners. Most were kidnapped for ransom and freed unharmed, but at least 30 have been killed as part of a campaign to drive out foreign troops and companies.

1. Actual Quote: "Of course, the whole point of a Doomsday Machine is lost, if you keep it a secret! Why didn't you tell the world, EH? "

2. This same methodology could work for commercial kidnappers as well, i.e., hostages held for ransom, not political causes per se.

3. This idea is hereby copyrighted! Any budding Forsythes or Clancys or Frankheimers out there take notice, I want a cut!

NYLP CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

A SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESSES MADE BY THE NYLP CHAPTERS AND THEIR CONTACTS, AS REPORTED TO FREENY BY THE CHAPTER'S THEMSELVES. SEE OTHER ACTIVITIES DETAILED IN ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION THAT MAY BE TOO VOLUMINOUS TO REPRODUCE HERE. IF YOU ARE (OR WILL BE) A LIBERTARIAN AND YOUR PART OF THE STATE IS NOT REPRESENTED YET, CALL (516)SOS-GOVT TO GET HELP TO SET ONE UP.

Capital District

1marketsquare.com/CapLP/Main.shtml

Albany and Vicinity

Jeff Russell, JRuss1776@aol.com

518-371-3641

The Capital District Libertarian Party meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Branch Restaurant on Maiden Lane in Albany. Meetings start at 6 PM.

Central New York

Onondaga, Oswego, Madison, Cortland

Kevin Delaney, kdzrd@aol.com

Please contact for info and meetings schedule

Western New York

(Includes Allegany, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus Counties)

John Wadsworth

Buffalo, NY

716-886-1919

Please contact John Wadsworth in Buffalo if you'd like to get involved.

Elmira-area Libertarians

Chemung and Steuben Counties

Andrew Gardner

Headboy77@stny.rr.com

Please join the Ithaca LP mailing list for now, but Andrew is planning on organizing this area separately.

Erie/Niagara Counties

Dr. John Wadsworth

716-886-1919

jlwads@concentric.net

John had been having meetings regularly. Please contact John to be put on his email list.

Hudson Valley

(Includes Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties)

Don Silberger, DonSilberger@hvc.rr.com

845-255-8819

Peter Carl

845-679-8340

P.O. Box 66, Lake Hill, NY 12448

Gary Treistman, garyonthenet@yahoo.com

845-679-4770

POB 563, Bearsville, NY 12409

ny.lp.org/HudsonValley

Meets "religiously" on the first Tuesday of each month at

7:00 PM at the College Diner in New Paltz, one block east of the thruway exit on route 299. We love good conversation, and discuss/plan activist goals at our meetings.

The Hudson Valley chapter boasted two of the candidates of this past election year: Don Silberger and Jeff Bennett. We salute them both.

Ithaca LP in Tompkins County

Brian Sullivan

bsulliv1@twcny.rr.com

(607) 277-5085

ny.lp.org/Ithaca

Ithaca Libertarians will meet the third Friday of every month at Bool's Flower Shop, 209 N. Aurora St., Ithaca 5:15pm, and as needed. Join the Ithaca LP mailing list to see what's on the agenda.

Kings County (a.k.a. Brooklyn)

Gary Popkin, gary_popkin@hotmail.com

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Park Cafe, 92 Seventh Avenue, at Union Street.

Libertarian Party of Monroe County

www.RochesterLP.org

(Includes Genesee, Orleans, Wayne, Livingston, and Wayne counties)

Stephen Healey

Call 585-529-9354 or

visit mnylp.netsville.com

email: easterof1916@nospam.runbox.com

The chapter meets on the third Wednesday of each month for strategy sessions. Call for location.

In September 2004:

The LPMC has been active lately, enjoying the diversity of our membership and community network.

We recently ran an OPH booth at the Second Annual PeaceFair, sponsored by PeaceWorks of Greater Rochester. This event was attended by many religious, spiritual and community groups from all political walks of life. While most attendees were in the "Liberal" quadrant of the Nolan Chart, we scored many Libertarians, and spread the message to people who fell just outside of the borders. The phrase of the day seemed to be "Hey, I've heard of Libertarians before, where do I get more info?" We handed out dozens and dozens of the "New Vision" in tabloid form.

On September 19th, LPMC members attended the Monroe County SCOPE "Meet The Candidates" pig roast. This is a highly-attended event, and many LPMC members and supporters were there in force! Candidates were met, elected officials were catechized, and succulent pig was enjoyed by all. Many elected officials often attend, and LPMC members could be seen deploring the recent Minimum Wage increase with NYS Senator James Alesi and Assemblyman Joe Errigo.

New York County (a.k.a. Manhattan)

Manhattan Libertarian Party

18 Greenwich Avenue, Box 127

New York, NY 10011

www.ManhattanLP.org

Thomas Ruks

info@manhattanlp.org

(212) 252-3449

Manhattan is now leading the state in terms of candidates run each year. Join the [14]lpny_manhattan mailing list to start contributing your ideas about how to make it work. Stop in at their monthly meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, at Evergreen Restaurant, 10 East 38th Street. The first hour is a business meeting, and it will start PROMPTLY. The second hour is educational/social with dinner and guest speaker.

You'll also see many of us on the first Thursday of each month at the Junto lecture series, currently held at the The Shelburne Murray Hill Hotel, in the Ballroom, Main Floor. 303 Lexington Avenue at 37th St., five blocks south of Grand Central Terminal. Subway: 4,5,6,7 to 42nd St.-Grand Central or B,D,F,N,Q,R,V,W to 34th St.-Herald Square.

The meetings get started around 7, and are subject to frequent interruptions from the host.

Nassau County Libertarian Party

Vincent O'Neill (516) 676-8029

Meets at T.G.I. Friday's, 1445 Northern Boulevard, Manhasset, at 8:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month.

Richard Cooper has decided to step down as Nassau LP chair. Until we hold a county convention, Gary Donoyan will serve as Acting Chair.

North County Libertarians

Bonnie Scott

rabbit@cownow.com

Jefferson, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Lewis, Herkimer and Hamilton Counties

North Country Libertarians are spread out across a lot of land, but a newsletter has been started, and planning for 2005 is underway. Join our mailing list lpny_northern at YahooGroups.com.

Libertarian Party of Queens County

www.lpqc.org

ny.lp.org/LPQC

Frank Warren

lpqc@lpqc.org

info: (718) 707-1421

John Procida

proreal@nyc.rr.com

Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, at Bohemian Hall, 29-19 24th Avenue, Astoria, Queens (Subway: one block north of the Astoria Boulevard N train station, just west of 31st Street.)

Southern Tier Libertarians

Broome County

Michael Lurie

mlurie@nospam.stny.rr.com

607-797-7162

Binghamton, Vestal, Endicott: get in contact with Michael Lurie, a long-time libertarian who has previously arranged libertarian meetings at the Vestal Public Library.

Suffolk County

Barry Loberfeld, BLoberfe@suffolk.lib.ny.us

516-543-3510

Contact Barry for meeting times and location.

Westchester County

Larry McElhinney

Larry McElhinney has stepped forward to help organize a group in Westchester! To find out about meeting times and locations, please see the Westchester Libertarians Meetup: libertarian.meetup.com/166/

College/School Chapters and Contacts:

A note from the LPNY College Outreach Coordinator:

If you work or go to school at a college or university in New York State and would like to be a designated contact for the Libertarian Party, I would appreciate your contacting me at the E-Mail address noted below.

Perhaps you are a professor who would be willing to serve as an Advisor to a College Libertarian chapter. Perhaps you are a student who is interested in leading a Libertarian Freedom Coalition, an alliance of students who agree with us on a broad range of issues.

Perhaps you are someone who would be willing to put up a notice seeking to identify students who would agree to serve as officers of a Libertarian Party organization at your school.

If you can help out in any capacity, please let me know.

Dr. Thomas Robert Stevens

LPNY College Outreach Coordinator

YRSpartan@aol.com

The following are confirmed contacts for high school, college and university chapters of the Libertarian Party in New York State:

ALFRED STATE COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Timothy Woodcock
De4tw@aol.com
Woodcot@alfredstate.edu
585-610-0149

AVOCA CENTRAL SCHOOL

Avoca, New York (Steuben County)
Contact: Luke Slayton
lts20stl@hotmail.com

COLUMBIA COLLEGE LIBERTARIANSCOLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Will Thomas (President)
wrt2003@columbia.edu
Damian Najman (Vice-President)
ddn2005@columbia.edu
libertarians@columbia.edu
Website: www.columbia.edu/cu/libertarians
On 3/31/04, hosted June Arunga, Director of Youth Affairs at a free-market think tank in Kenya, for a lecture on globalization in Africa and a screening of her BBC documentary "The Devil's Footpath.". Presentation was free and open to the public.

COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL LIBERTARIANSCOLUMBIA LAW SCHOOLCOLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Damian Najman (Co-Chair)
ddn2005@columbia.edu

MAILMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTHCOLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Contact: Adam Scavone
as2491@columbia.edu

Adam is a graduate student in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. He has been focused on drug reform and has been active with Columbia's Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF CORNELL UNIVERSITYCORNELL UNIVERSITY

Contact: Curry Taylor
ctaylo12@twcny.rr.com

In the process of obtaining formal recognition from the school; Dr. Jonathan Macey has agreed to be Faculty Advisor.

CUNY BARUCH COLLEGE

Contact: Kimberly D. Bloomston
iamkimoo@hotmail.com

Trying to organize a chapter there. Any help would be appreciated.

ELMIRA COLLEGE

Contact: Dr. Bryan C. McCannon
Assistant Professor of Economics
bcmccannon@yahoo.com

Has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to any chapter forming at that school

FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

Contact: Salvatore "Sam" Russo
srusso@fordham.edu

Mr. Russo is a student at Fordham School of Law which is located at Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus.

ITHACA COLLEGE

Contact: Prof. Kim Gregson
Rm 328 Park Hall
Park School of Communications
Ithaca College
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-274-7348
kgregson@ithaca.edu
I teach in the Radio-TV department

MAINE-ENDWELL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Endwell, New York (Broome County)

Contact: Dylan Thomas Lainhart

masterdlx@stny.rr.com

This school is located in Endwell, New York in Broome County. Mr. Lainhart is a Senior who is a Libertarian eager to get involved with our outreach efforts.

NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Prof. Gary Popkin
gary_popkin@hotmail.com

Professor of Computer Systems Technology
Prof. Popkin has agreed to be our contact and to be Faculty Advisor to a chapter organizing at that school.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Contact: Michael Robert Miller
mikemillernyc@hotmail.com

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Contact: Dawn Pepin
dap6401@rit.edu

Dawn Pepin is currently trying to find other interested students in order to organize a chapter at her school.

STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Daniel Fried
daniel@phallacy.net

Daniel Fried is concentrating on identifying students at his school who may be interested in remaining active after he graduates.

SUNY BINGHAMTON

Contact: Prof. Charles Goodman
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and AAAS
Binghamton University
Office Phone: (607) 777-2610
cgoodman@binghamton.edu

THE COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF BROCKPORTSUNY BROCKPORT

Contact: Adam Chamberlain
kangol@novocon.net
acha0102@brockport.edu
585-395-4665

SUNY BUFFALO

Contact: Don Stillwagon
dfs8@buffalo.edu

Quentin's Rule of Conversational Economy:

Smart People speak from experience.

Smarter People, from experience, don't speak.

716-645-4475

Don Stillwagon is a Freshman who is currently in the process of organizing a chapter at this school. He would welcome any advice and suggestions you may have to offer.

COLLEGE LIBERTARIANS OF SUNY FREDONIA

SUNY FREDONIA

Contact: Aaron Stadler (President)

Held a showing on a large projector of the film "Grass" by Ron Mann, a documentary on the failed war on marijuana, on 4/14/04. A speech prior to the film was given, talking about how the Democrats and Republicans will continue spending billions on this failed policy. About 50 people showed up at the event.

On 4/19, held a debate between all the parties. Greens, Democrats, Republicans, and Libertarians. Health care, social security, Iraq war, Drug War, Gay Rights, Taxes, and Trade were some of the topics. About 20 observers were present.

SUNY NEW PALTZ

Contact: Prof. Don Silberger

donsilberger@hvc.rr.com

Prof. Silberger, who is an Associate Professor of Mathematics and the Director of the M.A. Program in Mathematics, and serves as Faculty Advisor to any college libertarian group which seeks to form at this school.

SUNY PURCHASE COLLEGE

Contact: Cal Ulmann

ulmann3@yahoo.com

Cell Phone: 914-299-1257

Cal is a new contact identified at the LPNY State Convention held on April 24, 2004.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Contact: Kimberly Gehl

Day Hall Box 158

Mount Olympus Drive

Syracuse, NY 13210

kgehl@syr.edu

Kimberly Gehl is looking for interested Libertarian students at her school and hopes to form a chapter in the fall. She is a Freshman and is scheduled to graduate in 2007.

TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL

Contact: Devin D. Gould

theuncensored@aol.com

646-391-3264

Devin is a new contact identified at the LPNY State Convention held on April 24, 2004.

UR LIBERTARIANS

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Contact: Eric Miller

Sophomore, Economics Major

CPU Box 276577

River Campus

Rochester, NY 14627

em003m@mail.rochester.edu

Eric Miller is planning on holding meetings on campus every Wednesday.

LIBERTARIANISM THRIVING IN COSTA RICA

BY AUDREY CAPOZZI

For those of us who are working towards liberty in our lifetime, a look at our Central American compatriots in Costa Rica is inspiring. Perhaps this could be the Free State Project, but with teeth, a true libertarian sovereign nation. (Start learning that Espanola!)

In San Jose, Costa Rica the Movimiento Libertario is making an impact. It succeeded in electing Otto Guvera to congress, making him the world's first, and I believe only, nationally elected Libertarian.

Otto is often called the "JFK of Central America" for his winning personality and good looks. But, of course, he is so much more than that.

A dedicated Libertarian, Otto, along with Raúl Costales, a former Chair of the Florida LP back in the 80s, both of whom were educated in the US, keep the party thriving, growing and, yes, winning elections.

Costa Rica has limited to one term all its elected offices. In 2002, 5 libertarians were elected to a congress which has only 57 members. So, yes they are making an impact. These five do not yet claim to have established liberty yet, but they are making inroads in blocking tax bills, winning court challenges, uncovering corruption, etc.

Interestingly, the last two presidents of Costa Rica are both sitting in jail on corruption charges now and a third is in Switzerland, refusing to come back and face the music. I cannot give the ML total credit for this but they are a force to be reckoned with when it comes to uncovering corruption and creating the climate within the country making corruption no longer tolerable or acceptable as

in the past and as in most Central and South American governments.

Movimiento Libertario has major plans, including a run for the presidency in '06 with Otto as the candidate. I fear they are more likely than we to achieve liberty, in my lifetime at least, at the rate they are going. *(If you would like to help these hardworking Libertarians you can contribute with a check. Checks should be made payable to Movimiento Libertario, and mailed to Movimiento Libertario, SJO 1410, P.O. Box 25216, Miami, FL 33102-5216.)* They have asked me to bring you the report on the strides they are making and their future plans. At present they are holding 3-day training sessions for new libertarians every two months. With your help they can run sessions more frequently, in a day or half day long, and do so in various locations throughout the country. Remember contributions to this cause are legal in Costa Rica, up to a maximum of \$36,000, which is the legal limit. I have information sheets which have contacts for both Movimiento Libertario and for me, if you have further questions or concerns, my email address is: jlcaud@codina.org.

If you want to keep up to date with the latest news, you can subscribe to the monthly English Language email Newsletter. You can see back issues at: www.libertario.org/en/newsletter/index2.htm, click on "Newsletter subscription" to sign up.

to the process for the first time - these newly inducted participants in the electoral system initially seemed to shift the outcome to Kerry, yet Bush emerged the winner.

Democratic leaders were flabbergasted: how could Bush, with all his blatant faux pas in public policy, international entanglements and befuddled look, win a reelection?

Conventional pundits opined that the majority of Americans agree with Bush's morality-based governance in domestic policy, e.g., opposing gay marriage and espousing religious values, et al.

More likely, the people sought a sense of security and continuity in what they perceive to be very turbulent times, times of war and terrorism. Perhaps also it was because the Democrats simply didn't pick their candidate well, Kerry was simply too boring, ponderous, with too many Dukakis' moments.

Claiming a clear mandate from the people, Republicans rejoiced when they squeaked by, winning the election.

Democrats hung down their heads in dismay and puzzlement, 'What did we do wrong?'

Democrat politicians and strategists resolved to put on a more Republican face and maybe adopt more Republican stances in order to appeal to the voters. (Such is the expected response from fundamentally unprincipled parties; the schemata is to simply pander to the majority of the voters, and will change what it stands for, chameleon like, for whatever may yield a win.)

Republicans' giddy rhetoric notwithstanding, the election was far from a mandate. Despite a voter turnout higher than any in American history, for the second POTUS election in a row the country was severely divided almost exactly in half (that is of the public who decided to actually vote).

A complaint voiced over and over in the public arena was dissatisfaction with the caliber of the two main candidates offered as a choice for President. Both had skeletons in their closets, neither really represented the qualities and concerns of the common man, and nobody wholly agreed with their platforms. The sentiment among voters was, not to vote for the their first choice, but to vote against their last choice.

However this too was became difficult, as both candidates came to resemble substantive clones of each other, with the differences more of style and attitude, rather than of issues and positions.

Most people seemed unaware, or not to care, that there were other choices available.

Running in the backdrop behind the major parties' machinations, the minor parties literally vied for third place, and competed to gain momentum for their respective causes.

Inequitable ballot laws across the nation, enacted by monopolistic Demopublican controlled legislatures, obstructed their efforts to offer the public an opportunity to vote for an alternative party choice.

Not satisfied with incumbent power alone, the major parties acted like a crooked casino that fixes the game to assure a win, even though the house rules are already far in its favor.

Swimming upstream, through sheer diligence and conviction, third party candidates and their volunteers navigated the arbitrary requirements imposed by ballot access laws, and managed to provide a notable showing on the balloting, if not yet the public's full awareness of them.

Having unselected their previous 'celebrity' candidate Ralph Nader, the Green Party did not do nearly as well this

election cycle as the last (3.1 million), with a showing of only 119,297, via their candidate David Cobb.

Ralph himself, now a candidate for the catch all Independent Party, managed to get a respectable (by third party measure) 462,402 votes.

Interestingly, notwithstanding that Libertarian Party candidate Michael Badnarik received 396,888 votes, and attained presence on more state ballots (48 vs Nader's 37) than any other third party, the major media outlets reported virtually nothing of him, his campaign or voting results.

Badnarik, a force unto himself, was used to getting no respect, even before he was an official presidential candidate for the LP, and had to compete for the LP nomination.

In those races, this election cycle was equally as contentious within the party proceedings. After a truly surprising upset of expectations, Michael Badnarik managed to attain the nomination of the Libertarian Party at its convention in Atlanta.

Competing for the nomination were far better-known and well funded candidates Aaron Russo, an established media and movie producer, and Gary Nolan, a popular syndicated talk-radio host and commentator.

In the initial presentation of nominee candidates, Michael Badnarik seemed to be nothing more than a filler candidate, slightly ahead of the more flamboyant and eccentric potential nominees being fielded at the beginning.

Badnarik truly ran his nomination campaign on a shoe-string. He barely made it to some LP State conventions (notably, he did not make it to the NYLP convention in April), he slept in his car to conserve funds. Furthermore, he had to defend and clarify a lot of background rhetoric from his prior lectures. The general public was exponentially less familiar with him than the other two. By his own admission he did not expect to win the nomination, and didn't have a post-convention campaign plan; reports are odds makers would have given him a 30 to 1 chance.

Yet his LPN Convention oratory in debate, surety of speech and conviction, unqualified support of core libertarian values and public policy positions, struck a chord with the delegates winning them over en masse, when nobody, not even Badnarik himself, expected the sheer uber-simpatico among the delegates to be of a quality sufficient to upset all predictions.

Not that it was solely Badnarik's presence and verve that earned him the nomination. Internal party politics played a major factor in funneling him into winning the LP delegates' vote as well.

Instrumental in this outcome was the arch-rivalry between the other two nominee candidates and their denigration for each others' persona and campaign, almost to the point of self immolation. On the first round of voting, when Nolan found he was not even in the running for 2nd place, he did what at first appeared to be the noble thing in bowing out of the race, ostensibly to let the better man of the remaining two win. However, he did a bit more than that when upon request he was granted, via suspended rule, a 5 minute concession speech.

In his speech, after pro forma thanking all those who helped him in his campaign, he endorsed Badnarik and urged all the delegates to do the same. This was enough to shift Russo's firm lead, and resulted ultimately in Badnarik's success. It thus appeared that Badnarik's nomination was, in part, a side-effect of all the mud thrown by Nolan and Russo at each other; they were both so covered in it, only Badnarik

came out looking clean enough to vote for.

(In a separate nomination process, particular to LP process, the vice-presidential candidate nominated was Richard Campagna.)

Our Fearless Leader

So, the country has chosen its leader for the next 4 years.

In incumbent president who has unilaterally brought this country into a war (or is it a police action?) against an 'enemy' from which there was no demonstrable threat; who created the U.S. Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBCI) to fund religious organizations supposedly performing secular duties; who created the suspiciously Orwellian Office of Homeland Security - to 'protect' us; who single-handedly created laws authorizing the arrest and detention of Americans without criminal charges and without access to the courts,

implicit power to coerce FCC licensed broadcasters), and its ability to feed to the populace opinions and positions coming from any other source that otherwise be considered highly speculative, governmental propagandizers used textbook mass psychological manipulation techniques and applied them to the American people.

Capitalizing on the 911 tragedy, government media releases whipped up a national frenzy and created a siege mentality - methods taken right out of the scenarios painted in Orwell's 1984.

Law makers were swept along with the rest of America, feverishly passing radical new laws constraining personal freedoms, with little analysis and no public comment.

Laws ostensibly created to meet the "new" terrorist threat, undermining what few brightline civil rights and guarantees we have left, are now being inexorably applied to common criminals and domestic crimes; as with the 'war' on drugs, the new 'war' on terrorism will be used as a preemptive



defense attorneys or the media, and who believes that God preordained his presidency with a purpose of destiny.

Bush will likely now have the opportunity to spike the judiciary with statist zealots who will haunt jurisprudence for decades to come, drifting the nation's respect for individual rights ever farther from constitutional guarantees. His war on terrorism will just keep growing until anyone can be declared a terrorist, and any country a justifiable target for invasion.

It has been said that all a sitting president need do to ensure a reelection is to instigate a war and let the populace's unease about change carry him through to the next election. The synthetic war we are now waging seems to be a clear vindication of that sentiment.

With the government's beeline to the media (and its

argument to abrogate all legal protections the citizenry has against its own government, and the biggest terrorist threat will reveal itself not to come from below, but from above, as the govt will be in a position to comfortably terrorize the very people from which it receives its mandate and legitimacy.

Laws that are now being passed, where the members of the House and Senate haven't even read the content (e.g. USA PATRIOT ACT, Homeland Security Act), undermine the fundamental process, and make one wonder whether such laws are even being passed legally, as they certainly show no nexus to a representational system - i.e., laws are to be passed by elected representatives of the People, and as representatives they are mandated to be aware of the content and directives of the subject law being voted upon.

In Maoist China, the Communist Revolution was achieved with promises of egalitarian equality of all social classes.

In due time, Mao's new order was begun to be seen as just another oligarchy, and the people's cynicism grew.

Sensing the public's support for government growing stale, Mao got an idea: since his original revolution was such a success in unifying the people for his government, why not have another 'revolution'?

Notwithstanding there was nothing to revolt against, since the government was in firm control of the country, a cause was needed to excite the people, and instill a controlled hysteria and artificial crises. Thus was born the Cultural Revolution, an excuse by which the public psyche was whipped up once again, encouraging a siege mentality to rally public sentiment in favor of the government, lemming style.

The current U.S. Executive Branch has effected a similar

strategy in America; having ratcheted up the American psyche pianowire taut, it is now reaping the rewards of a nervous public looking for security over liberties.

A legislature even more controlled by like-minded statist than ever is now in place; with the judiciary soon to follow, a changeling revolution of American government in situ is in the works. When all three branches of government soon to be in lock step with each other, the separation of powers, and checks and balance intended by inception, will be but just another empty formality, paid only pro forma veneration, as has become the Constitution itself.

In a self-fulfilling prophecy of our leaders, might we be seeing the latter days of our nation of liberty?

(Article by Gary Treistman)

RATIONAL RECREATION

ANGUISH LANGUISH

The object of the Anguish Languish challenge is to read the seemingly nonsensical stream-of-consciousness poem written below, and decipher the underlying quotation, saying or exposition that it actually represents. The rules by which it is correlates to the underlying message, are that the words you read in the poem are phonetically similar in enunciation to the original message, although not always exactly so.

For example, as a simple start:

*"Gamma Way", when stated aloud, actually sounds like "Get out of my way", or:
Needles Toes Hay", translates to "Needless to say"*

Now lets try a slightly more complicated one for you to solve on your own:

"Aye yum aerial doe mass."

(Didja get it? Do you think its true?)

And now here's the real heavy duty challenge:

§

**Their probe lame wet bagle labored reanimism, a snot there theorize ortho gulls,
buddy incest ant ink fating thought cousin waiting they parity. Oaf weak good own
leapy coal lick toe fist a niff jester worked gather, wicked reacher coming all.**

§

(Hint: This is a statement by a known libertarian ;-)

Last Issue's Challenge was won by Daniel Schwartz, of the Bronx, NY. The answer text of which was:

"The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed."

Dr. Albert Einstein

(Send all comments and/or solutions to FreeNY@hvc.rr.com, or by mail at the Editor's contact address; there is a \$15 prize for the first correct answer before publication of next FNY issue, email or postmark date. A past issue winner is not eligible for a prize in an adjacent issue, but is eligible for the second issue after that.)

Kiss me.



Think of ways to reach people and organizations and point them to our message. Tell them to resist the prevailing trend to impose choices valued by some at the expense of others with new laws. (www.ny.lp.org/resist)

As your State Committee Treasurer, I'm starting an effort to make it easy for you to support Goal50K financially. Yes, I ask you for money. What will this money be used for? It will purchase advertising. It will pay for speakers to travel the state with our message. It may help fund classes on how to reach people or train our local candidates in effective campaigning. Hopefully it will be used to help fund chapter activities to do outreach and expand membership. All of these are required to convince at least 50,000 voters to cast their ballots for our candidate for Governor in 2006. Once that happens, this resistance will be noticed by the media. It will make us politically visible. People will seek to find out more about us and our ideas. More people will register Libertarian. We will begin to make a difference.

Until we have reached our goal of \$50K for this project, I must continue to seek help. This should not be all that hard. If 1000 people each gave just \$50 that financial goal would be accomplished and we could all be proud of the result. Please consider that \$50 figure to be a minimum contribution to this project. I encourage those of you who can give more to do so. That way we will reach the goal sooner and I can stop asking you for money. Instead I will be able to thank your for funding Goal50K.

Werner Hetzner
LPNY Treasurer

Please make check/money order (no corporate checks please) payable to:
Libertarian Party of New York
Send this form and payment to:
Libertarian Party of New York
P.O. Box 728
Bellport, NY 11713

**New York State
Libertarian Party
State Committee
P.O. Box 728
Bellport, NY 11713**



Cut, complete and mail:

This form can also be printed from www.ny.lp.org/Goal50K/funding

Yes! I think Goal50K is worth funding.

I'm sending you a check for \$ _____ and/or I pledge to send you \$ _____ each month until November 2006.

You can also use our website to make your contribution at www.ny.lp.org/donate/

Click&Pledge™ deducts a fee of about 4% from your contribution for this service.

Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Political contributions are not tax deductible.

(If your annual contributions exceed \$200, please fill out the below as well with your donation.)

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